

Message Text

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51

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-04 L-03 H-03 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

IOE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-03 DRC-01

/113 W

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P R 051150Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0799

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 0343

UNCLAS COLOMBO 0948

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ECAF:OCON

SUBJ: ECAF: (SOON TO BE ESCAP); RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN APRIL 5
PLENARY SESSION

FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED BY CONSENSUS DURING APRIL 5
ECAF PLENARY SESSION.

(A) FINANCING THE URGENT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS NEEDS AND LONG
TERM DEVELOPMENTAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: THIS
RESOLUTION WAS ORIGINALLY SPONSORED BY IRAN AND RETAINS REFER-
ENCES TO SHAH'S "INITIATIVES". URGES THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS GIVE FULLEST POSSIBLE
ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES HURT BY RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS.
SRI LANKA OAVE LONG STATEMENT SAYING RESOLUTION SHOULD RT MUCH
FURTHER TO HELP COUNTRIES SUCH AS ITSELF FOR WHICH PALANCE OF
PAYMENTS REPERCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN A DISASTER. PRC RESERVED ON
THAT PORTION OF RESOLUTION MENTIONING IMF AND IBRD, IN BOTH OF
WHICH ROC IS MEMBER. US DEL SAID WE PRECEIVE PROBLEMS BEHIND
THIS RESOLUTION ALL TOO WELL. ADDED -- QUOTE -- WHILE UV IS
THE POSITION OF MY GOVERNMENT THAT WE SHOULD NOT AT THIS TIME
ENDORSE ANY PARTICIJLAR SCHEME FOR THE TRANSFER OF RESOURCES
FROM OIL RICH COUNTRIES TO THOSE IN NEED, WE NONETHLESS SUPPORT
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IN PRINCIPAL THIS RESOLUTION. UNQUOTE. HE CONCLUDED -- QUOTE --

MY GOVERNMENT IS NOW EXAMINING AND WILL IN THE FUTURE EXAMINE ALL PROPOSALS FROM WHATEVER SOURCE WHICH ADDRESS THESE MANY COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE. UNQUOTE.

(B) COLOMBO DECLARATION: THIS WAS MOST DIFFICULT RESOLUTION OF SESSION TO DRAFT, SINCE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WANTED SOMETHING VERY SPECIFIC, BUT OTHERS DISAGREED. IN END, DECLARATION REPEATED

ESSENCE OF EARLIER RESES ABOUT WORLD FERTILIZER FUND AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE, NOTES SEVERITY OF CURRENT REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND CALLS ON ECAFE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES FOR URGENT ASSISTANCE.

(C) CHANGE OF ECAFE'S NAME: RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS SPONSORED BY SEVEN PACIFIC MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (INCLUDING TTPI), RECOMMENDS TO ECOSOC AND UNGA THAT COMMISSION'S NAME BE CHANGED TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP). THERE WERE NO FORMAL OBJECTIONS, BUT JAPANESE AND SEVERAL OTHERS TOLD US THEY THOUGHT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE TO GET RID OF WELL-KNOWN NAME. PAKISTAN HAD EARLIER MADE WIDELY-CRITICIZED SPEECH QUESTIONING INCLUSION OF THE "VAST AND EMPTY" REGIONS OF PACIFIC IN ECAFE.

(D) RATIONALIZATION OF ECAFE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE: AFTER MANY HOURS OF NEGOTIATION IN WORKING GROUP, RESOLUTION WAS PRODUCED WHICH INCLUDED EVERYTHING WE FAVORED. THERE WAS BRIEF FLURRY OF DEBATE ON ONE ASPECT OF PLENARY SESSION, BUT THEN THIS IMPORTANT RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

(E) ESTABLISHMENT OF ASIAN CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY: AS CONFERENCE OPENED, MAIN DISPUTE ON THIS RESOLUTION WAS WHETHER CENTER SHOULD BE IN PAKISTAN OR PHILIPPINES. WE MADE IT CLEAR WE SUPPORTED LATTER, BUT OTHERWISE KEPT IN BACKGROUND. PAKISTAN EVENTUALLY WITHDREW. THEN IN APRIL 5 PLENARY SESSION, INDONESIA MADE WELL-REASONED STATEMENT FOR RECORD ABOUT ECAFE SCATTERING ITS RESOURCES INTO TOO MANY INSTITUTES, BUT AGREED TO ADOPTING THIS RESOLUTION BY CONSENSUS. VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COLOMB00948
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740077-0339
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740464/aaaacgxf.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2002 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECAFE: (SOON TO BE ESCAP): RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN APRIL 5 PLENARY SESSION
TAGS: OCON, ECAFE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005